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PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR THE WORLD
SUMMIT FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
Organizational session
New York, 12-16 April 1993
Item 3 of the provisional agenda*

PREPARATIONS FOR THE WORLD SUMMIT FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Consideration by the Commission for Social Development of the World Summit for Social Development and its preparatory process

Note by the Secretariat

At its thirty-third session, held at Vienna from 8 to 17 February 1993, the Commission for Social Development, recalling General Assembly resolution 47/92 on the convening of a World Summit for Social Development, decided to transmit the annex of its resolution 33/1 to the Economic and Social Council at the high-level segment of its substantive session of 1993 and to the Preparatory Committee for the World Summit for Social Development.

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Annex to resolution 33/1 of the Commission for Social Development

A. Consideration of the agenda for the World Summit for Social Development

1. The Commission for Social Development has given due consideration to the agenda for the World Summit for Social Development at its thirty-third session, as called for in paragraph 12 of General Assembly resolution 47/92, and has arrived at the conclusion set out below.

2. A detailed definition of the agenda for the Summit, based on the core issues specified in paragraph 6 of General Assembly resolution 47/92, will be the task of the Preparatory Committee for the Summit. As requested, the Commission has given substantive consideration to the core issues.

3. The Commission is of the view that the agenda for the Summit should adhere strictly to the agreed core issues, as related to the objectives specified in paragraph 5 of General Assembly resolution 47/92.

4. The Commission is of the view that the agenda for, and the outcome of, the Summit should lead to concrete, action-oriented plans and programmes that can be monitored on a continuing basis. In this connection, the Commission recalls the existing instruments agreed upon by intergovernmental bodies, in particular those promoting the well-being of specific social groups. The results of the Summit should enhance the effectiveness of the United Nations system in the sphere of social development and the effective implementation of existing instruments, as appropriate to national circumstances, through, inter alia, standard-setting and heightened efforts to give coherence to disparate social strategies and to develop from them concrete projects and programmes. New approaches should be considered to ensure an appropriate impact and lasting solutions.

5. The Commission is of the view that the Summit should foster a greater understanding of the following:

(a) Social and economic development cannot take place independently of each other and must be integrated;

(b) Social factors must be adequately understood and considered in order to formulate effective economic policies;

(c) Social policies must be formulated in such a way as to ensure that they are economically sustainable;

(d) Social development represents an approach that aims to enhance people's capacity to lead secure lives and to provide them with the conditions necessary for their full participation in society;

(e) Safety net or welfare provisions form one aspect of social development policy. Such provisions, however, should not simply aim at protecting people but should also provide them with opportunities to reduce their vulnerability;

(f) A peaceful, stable and non-discriminatory international environment is essential for social development within nations;

(g) Social development will strengthen international peace and security;

(h) The social, economic and demographic aspects of development are interrelated.

6. In considering the three core issues - the enhancement of social integration, particularly of the more disadvantaged and marginalized groups; alleviation and reduction of poverty; and expansion of productive employment - it should be noted that all are interrelated.

7. In order to promote more effective and nationally appropriate strategies and to enhance the effectiveness of international cooperation in all directions - South-South, North-South and North-North cooperation - the Commission recommends that the Preparatory Committee for the Summit take into particular consideration the elaboration of the three core issues set out below.

1. Social development strategies for the enhancement of social integration

(a) Creating equal access to opportunities and information through the elimination of all forms of discrimination;

(b) Promoting education for all, eradicating illiteracy, particularly among women, and continuing the training of the labour force;

(c) Promoting the role of grass-roots and non-governmental organizations, within the national context, in defining and executing social programmes;

(d) Decentralizing decision-making to encourage more effective and efficient social policy-making and programming and enabling people to participate in the decisions that directly or indirectly affect their lives;

(e) Identifying successful, cost-effective programmes in countries at various levels of development to ensure the full participation of all people in society, especially those who are in situations of particular vulnerability;

(f) Improving social returns by directing spending priorities towards investment that has social multiplier effects - for example, investment in basic education, primary health care and general social services;

(g) Ensuring that public administration is transparent and accountable, and that institutions that deliver services operate efficiently, effectively and responsively to needs;

2. Social development strategies for the alleviation and reduction of poverty

(h) Formulating nationally appropriate, effective and efficient social policies and programmes for the alleviation and reduction of poverty, including extreme poverty, the reduction of vulnerability and thus the enhancement of individual choice and security. These policies and programmes should address the root causes of poverty;

(i) Developing methods for monitoring and evaluating the impact of social policies and programmes that are poverty-focused and methods for assessing the efficacy of the projects included and developing systems for the exchange of views and mutual learning; in particular, such methods and systems should aim at eliminating the impoverishment of women and alleviating its effects;

(j) Encouraging complementary action between public and private providers of social services, in order to encourage a wider choice and more efficient use of resources;

3. Social development strategies for the generation of productive employment

(k) Formulating nationally appropriate, effective and efficient economic and labour market policies to maximize the expansion of productive employment, particularly through the growth of small and medium-sized enterprises;

(l) Enhancing human development through the provision of improved and appropriate education systems, including basic literacy, skills training and health care;

(m) Improving opportunities for workers in all spheres, especially in rural and informal sectors, to increase their productivity through improved access to markets, credit, technology, training and social services;

(n) Defining nationally appropriate policies to ensure workers' rights of organization and free collective bargaining, as well as protecting wages and working hours, rights to social security, non-discriminatory employment practices and labour legislation;

(o) Elaborating ways and means of enhancing the access of women, young and elderly people, persons with disabilities and other disadvantaged groups to productive employment and to ensure that their contributions are recognized.

8. With reference to paragraphs 15, 16 and 17 of General Assembly resolution 47/92, the Commission welcomed a wide variety of input into the preparations for the Summit. Some representatives stressed the desirability of seeking input from experts and practitioners in the field of social development and indicated the willingness of their Governments to host expert group meetings on the three core issues as elaborated in paragraphs 5, 6 and 7 above. The Preparatory Committee for the Summit would decide to what extent expert group meetings, and the reports they might produce, would be useful to the preparatory process for the Summit. The Commission suggests that the Preparatory Committee give full

consideration to this question, including reporting procedures, at its organizational session in April 1993.

B. Consideration of the question of holding an extraordinary session of the Commission for Social Development in 1994

9. The Commission has given due consideration to the question of holding an extraordinary session dedicated solely to the question of the Summit before the first substantive session of the Preparatory Committee for the Summit in 1994, as called for in paragraph 12 of General Assembly resolution 47/92.

10. The Commission is conscious of the fact that, in accordance with paragraphs 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11 of General Assembly resolution 47/92, the preparations for the Summit have been entrusted to the Preparatory Committee, to be assisted by an ad hoc secretariat, inter alia, to enable all countries to participate in the preparatory process. To ensure the efficacy and efficiency of the preparatory process and to avoid duplication, the Commission is of the view that it would not be appropriate to convene an extraordinary session.

11. In consideration of General Assembly resolution 47/92 and in view of the specific competence of the Commission for Social Development, the Economic and Social Council and the Preparatory Committee for the Summit should consider what further role the Commission could play in the preparations for and follow-up to the Summit.

12. In view of the normal schedule for sessions of the Commission for Social Development, the Economic and Social Council may wish to consider modifying the date of the next regular session of the Commission.

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PREPARATIONS FOR THE WORLD SUMMIT FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Suggested guidelines concerning the appropriate contribution of organs, organizations and programmes of the United Nations system, other intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and others to the preparations for the Summit

Note by the Secretariat

1. The General Assembly, in resolution 47/92, decided to convene a World Summit for Social Development at the level of heads of State or Government to be held in early 1995, and accepted with deep appreciation the generous offer of the Government of Denmark to act as host to the Summit. In the same resolution, the Assembly decided to establish a Preparatory Committee open to the participation of all States Members of the United Nations and members of the specialized agencies, with the participation of observers in accordance with the established practice of the General Assembly.

2. In establishing the Preparatory Committee, the General Assembly decided that it should:

(a) Consider reports submitted by the organs, organizations and programmes of the United Nations system on matters relating to the Summit;

(b) Draft the provisional agenda of the Summit;

(c) Prepare the draft decisions for the Summit and submit them to the Summit for consideration and adoption;

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(d) Adopt other appropriate decisions relevant to the successful preparation, outcome and follow-up of the Summit.

3. The Preparatory Committee will consider a wide variety of contributions. Many of the sources of these contributions have been identified already by the General Assembly in its resolution 47/92 and include intergovernmental bodies, the organs, organizations and programmes of the United Nations system, other intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations. In line with current interpretations of social policy and social development - that they are inclusive, encompass all aspects of social, economic and environmental life, and seek to promote a "society for all", in which every individual has the potential and the opportunity to become engaged in development - the Preparatory Committee may wish to encourage also contributions from sources other than those already identified in resolution 47/92, including academic institutions and specialists; it might also consider the contributions that could be made by expert groups in the areas of interest to the Summit. The Preparatory Committee will be responsible for receiving all inputs and determining how they might contribute to the preparation of the Summit.

4. In order to assist the organs, organizations and programmes of the United Nations system, as well as other contributors to the preparation of the Summit to make the most effective contribution, the Preparatory Committee might wish to adopt guidelines for contributions, as suggested below.

5. In line with paragraph 6 of General Assembly resolution 47/92, the contributions might be organized within the framework of the three core issues established for the Summit:

(a) The enhancement of social integration, particularly of the more disadvantaged and marginalized groups;

(b) Alleviation and reduction of poverty;

(c) Expansion of productive employment.

6. Furthermore, in line with paragraph 5 of resolution 47/92, which sets out the objectives of the Summit, contributions might address ways and means of attaining these objectives in order to promote the core issues. The goal would be for contributors to provide the Preparatory Committee with concrete experience or examples of activities which:

(a) Stimulate international cooperation at the bilateral, regional and multilateral levels;

(b) Assist in the implementation of nationally appropriate, effective and efficient social policies and formulate strategies which enable all citizens to be actively engaged in those policies;

(c) Formulate strategies on goals, policies and priority actions that address, in the different development realities, core issues of shared universal concern in the field of social development, giving particular attention to the needs of the least developed countries;

(d) Create international awareness of and address the modalities for obtaining the necessary balance between economic efficiency and social justice in a growth-oriented, equitable and sustainable development environment, in accordance with nationally defined priorities;

(e) Address, in creative ways, the interaction between the social function of the State, market responses to social demands and the imperatives of sustainable development;

(f) Identify common problems of socially marginalized and disadvantaged groups and promote the integration of those groups into society, highlighting the need for societies to equalize opportunities for all members;

(g) Promote programmes to ensure legal protection, foster effective social welfare programmes and enhance education and training for different groups in all societies, including the marginalized and disadvantaged groups;

(h) Assist in ensuring a more effective delivery of social services for the more disadvantaged sectors of society;

(i) Highlight the need to mobilize resources for social development at the local, national, regional and international levels.

A. Contributions of intergovernmental bodies

7. In paragraph 13 of resolution 47/92, the General Assembly recommended that the Economic and Social Council, at the high-level segment of its substantive session of 1993, consider the theme "World Summit for Social Development". At its organizational session for 1993, the Economic and Social Council decided that the high-level segment of 1993 should be devoted to the consideration of the major theme entitled "World Summit for Social Development, including the role of the United Nations system in promoting social development" (decision 1993/204).

8. The Under-Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development has written to the heads of the organs, organizations and programmes of the United Nations system requesting their contributions to his report for the high-level segment of the Economic and Social Council. The Preparatory Committee, at its first substantive session of 1994, will be able to review the contributions of the high-level segment.

9. In paragraph 12 of resolution 47/92, the General Assembly recommended that the Commission for Social Development give consideration to the agenda of the Summit at its thirty-third session, in 1993. The Commission, which met at Vienna from 8 to 17 February 1993, adopted resolution 33/1 concerning the World Summit for Social Development. The Preparatory Committee has before it for consideration a note by the Secretariat transmitting the annex to Commission resolution 33/1 (A/CONF.166/PC/2). With a view to achieving the objectives of the Summit, the Preparatory Committee may wish to decide to encourage contributions to the preparatory process which respond to the further elaboration of the core issues contained in the annex to Commission resolution 33/1.

10. The Assembly recommended, in paragraph 16 of resolution 47/92, that the Preparatory Committee take full account, as appropriate, of the preparations for and outcome of the World Conference on Human Rights to be held in 1993, the International Conference on Population and Development to be held in 1994 and the preparations for the Fourth World Conference on Women to be held in 1995. Relevant information emanating from the preparation of those conferences will be made available to the Preparatory Committee.

B. Contributions of the United Nations system

11. In paragraph 15 of resolution 47/92, the General Assembly requested the organs, organizations and programmes of the United Nations system, as well as other intergovernmental organizations, to contribute fully to the preparations for the Summit.

12. The Assembly, in paragraph 14 of the resolution, requested the regional commissions to include in their programme of work for 1993 the World Summit for Social Development, with particular emphasis on the social situation in their respective regions, including proposals, and to prepare an integrated report to be submitted to the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session. The integrated report of the regional commissions may be considered by the Preparatory Committee as background information for its substantive deliberations.

13. The Preparatory Committee should make full use of all relevant work under way in the organs, organizations and programmes of the United Nations system, inasmuch as such activities are related to the mandates of the Summit. It may wish to request reports from them regarding their current activities and, in this regard, may wish to refer to the discussions that will take place at the high-level segment of the Economic and Social Council.

14. To reflect fully the interactive nature of social development, and to encourage activities that are sustainable over time, the Preparatory Committee could place particular emphasis on areas in which impetus, support and value can be added to existing work of the United Nations organs, organizations and bodies. The Preparatory Committee may then invite them in turn to examine its recommendations for the Summit and take them into account in determining the evolution of their work in order to ensure, to the extent possible, that their respective activities are mutually supportive and complementary.

C. Contributions from other intergovernmental organizations

15. It would also be desirable during the preparations for the Summit to enlist the support of intergovernmental organizations outside the United Nations system, such as the Organization of African Unity (OAU), the Organization of American States (OAS), the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN), the Council of Europe, and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), among others.

D. Contributions of non-governmental organizations

16. In paragraph 17 of resolution 47/92, the General Assembly requested the non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council to contribute to the Summit and the preparatory process, as appropriate, in accordance with established practice. In view of the vast interest expressed by the non-governmental community in the preparatory process for the Summit, as well as in the Summit itself, and taking into consideration the experience gained with regard to the procedures adopted for the process for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, as well as the recent decisions concerning non-governmental participation in the International Conference on Population and Development and the World Conference on Human Rights, the Preparatory Committee may wish to formulate and adopt modalities to ensure non-governmental participation in the preparatory process for the Summit and in the Summit itself.

E. National contributions

17. The Committee may also wish to consider the ways in which national preparations for the Summit could be promoted and supported. Such preparations could include the following:

(a) Establishment of national committees or other arrangements at the national level to bring together concerned official agencies and non-governmental bodies;

(b) Convening of meetings for public discussion of the core issues;

(c) Preparation of national reports to identify constraints and the measures required to remove them with regard to the alleviation of poverty, the enhancement of employment opportunities and the promotion of social integration.

F. Other contributors

18. In addition to the contributions requested in General Assembly resolution 47/92, the Preparatory Committee might consider inviting social policy specialists or social welfare practitioners from academic institutions, private business or Governments to contribute to the preparations for the Summit.

19. The Preparatory Committee might welcome the organization of expert working groups which would allow in-depth discussion of issues of relevance to the Summit. Expert meetings might be conducted by agencies and organizations of the United Nations system, Governments, non-governmental organizations or academic institutions. The Preparatory Committee would decide the extent to which expert group meetings, and the reports they produced, would be useful to the preparatory process for the Summit.

G. Secretariat arrangements

20. In paragraph 18 of resolution 47/92, the General Assembly invited the Secretary-General to provide the resources required for initiating the preparatory process of the Summit in 1993, including through redeployment. In a note submitted to the Assembly at its forty-seventh session, the Secretary-General informed the Assembly of his intention to entrust the primary responsibility for the preparation for the World Summit for Social Development to the new Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development (A/47/753, para. 10). Furthermore, as outlined in his report (A/C.5/47/88), the Secretary-General, with a view to bringing together elements of social and economic policy to advance the new integrated paradigm of people-centred development, has decided to transfer 31 Professional and above posts from the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs to the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development, in order to provide the new Department with the necessary capacity, in particular to develop and promote an integrated approach to all economic, social and environmental aspects of development, to provide substantive support to the Commission for Social Development and to coordinate preparations for the World Summit for Social Development. In addition, secretariat arrangements for the preparatory work and the Summit itself could be reinforced through secondments of specialists from the organizations of the United Nations system concerned, some of which have already indicated their willingness to lend their staff.

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PREPARATIONS FOR THE WORLD SUMMIT FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Mobilization of voluntary resources for the World Summit for Social Development

Note by the Secretary-General

1. In its resolution 47/92, the General Assembly, inter alia, invited the Secretary-General to establish a trust fund and to mobilize voluntary contributions from public and private sources for the financing of the additional activities required by the preparation and holding of the World Summit for Social Development. In response to that request, the Secretary-General has established the Trust Fund for the World Summit for Social Development.

2. In order to mobilize contributions to this Fund, a number of fund-raising activities are envisaged. As a first step, the Secretary-General will inform all Member States of the existence of the Fund and will urge those countries in a position to do so to contribute generously to it. He also will publicize the establishment of the Fund as well as its purpose and terms of reference to interested intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations as well as to foundations, private enterprises and concerned individuals.

3. In addition, experience has shown that donors are often willing to contribute resources to voluntary funds when the specific purpose to be achieved with those resources - for example, the financing of the participation of least developed countries, the convening of seminars or regional meetings, and the support of national activities - is known. Consequently, once the activities of the preparatory process are determined, the Secretary-General will inform interested parties on a regular basis of such plans and seek their support.

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4. The Secretary-General also intends to mobilize the United Nations system as a whole to contribute to the preparatory process. Agencies, funds and programmes will be encouraged to include in their programme budgets specific allocations for activities that could contribute to that process.

5. Mobilization of support for the World Summit for Social Development will be an ongoing process. It will be essential to create awareness at the local, national, regional and international levels of the Summit's core issues as well as of its objectives. The Department of Public Information of the United Nations Secretariat will launch an information campaign for this purpose, and it is anticipated that the increase of such awareness will have a multiplier effect resulting in increased resources for the preparatory process as well as for the Summit itself.

6. The Secretary-General will continue to inform the Preparatory Committee of the activities being carried out for this purpose.